

GOERING QUESTIONS

23 November 1945

Suspicious

You directed that German industry be brought into line with the aims you expressed. It leaves the suspicion that underneath these words may be in your mind a deeper purpose than you expressed. That is unlike the open way you speak on other ~~rights~~. The evasion of your answer compels me to draw an inference which to me is still vague and ambiguous. So, relying on your express purpose that you wish to speak truthfully let me press you in this question - because you feel this way will you state as clearly or as definitely as possible your exact meaning.

Was it the intention of Hitler which you regarded as your duty to obey and fulfill - was it his intention to rearm Germany not merely for defense, not only to enable ^{you} to speak in equal terms with other nations, but to give you the strength and the power to add a threat to what you said - and further, apart from what you would do if ~~these~~ these various questions did not exist. I ask you the very practical and pertinent question taking the circumstances as they actually existed at that time.

Was it not your intention, as an essential part of your foreign policy, to rearm Germany as quickly as possible, so that you would be in a position by reason of rearmament (1) to attempt to settle this specific question of Austria and Sudetan and Danzig without war and (2) if that could not be done by peaceful means supported by a war economy you wanted an army so supported, strong enough to defend, or if need be to settle these questions by war even though that war had to be an aggressive one. In other words, the important thing was to settle these questions themselves and to be able to win the war with Russia that you considered inevitable. Your strategy was fixed altho your tactics might be improvised as circumstances required.

And do I correctly state that Hitler considered it advisable to adopt that course of action which would mean the greatest gain with the least risk - that success would be ~~truth~~ ^{touch} stone of the decision that was made: "win by whatever means and the result would be accepted by the world"?

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